

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

June 28, 2016

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Lisa Clark, Annette Breiling, Francisco Alves, Kavonte Duckett, Mari Lee, Adam Book, Gene Stanton, and Marguerite Vacca-Kaye.

III. The following persons who submitted applications for appointment to the Human Relations Commission were present: Lee Wisner, Roger Sobkowiak. Liaisons Kathleen Hartsock and Jessica Fitzwater, and Chief Hargis and Captain Grossman from FPD, were also present.

IV. The May 31 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction; in section VII the word "Gay" is stricken and replaced by "LBGTQIA" community. Kavonte Duckett moved and Marguerite Vacca-Kaye seconded.

V. Chief Hargis presented a video that the FPD created for recruiting. The video would not play so the link was sent out to everyone to view. The Chief talked about CORE values – Community, Order, Respect and Equality. He also spoke about the Explorer Program that the FPD offers.

VI. Angela thanked everyone that attended the recent vigil for the Orlando shooting victims. She reported that over 1,000 people showed up to the event. The Asbury Block Party was another successful event. Up to 6,500 people attended Frederick Pride this past weekend. The city and county issued proclamations that recognized Juneteenth, the date in 1865 when federal troops arrived in Texas to enforce the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation.

VII. Treasurer Mari Lee reported that the new fiscal year starts July 1 and funds are in place.

VIII. Community Relations Committee - Mari Lee reported that she will begin a sign up genius for upcoming events. Mari Lee reported that the Naturalization Ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 17 at Winchester Hall, starting at 11 am. Other scheduled events at which the HRC will be participating are National Night Out at five different locations in Frederick on August 2, the Latino Festival on October 9, and the Asian American Health Fair on October 22 at the Fairgrounds.

IX. Government Relations Committee - Mari Lee gave a demonstration on how to use the Drop Box. The HRC will start using it to make news about HRC events and other information available for quick access by members.

IX. Internal Relations Committee – Tonya Amedon reported that the HRC youth leadership program that was being presented at the Boys & Girls Club is on hold until the fall. It is hoped that more HRC members can become involved. Members who want to participate must be fingerprinted, and should contact Lisa Clark for information. AmeriCorps staff will assist with providing this program at five middle schools when the school year begins.

X. HRD Director Miles Ward reported that there are 5 ongoing investigations at this time. He attended the Frederick Pride Event and was amazed at the lack of people who know about the HRC/HRD.

XI. New Business

Recommendation to appoint new members: The Executive Committee reported that it recommended Lee Wisner and Roger Sobkowiak be appointed to the HRC. Each of them gave a brief summary about why they want to be on the HRC. Annette Breiling moved to appoint them, and Gene Stanton seconded. The vote to recommend that County Executive Jan Gardner appoint them both to the HRC was unanimous.

Election of HRC officers for FY16-17: The slate of nominated officers was presented by Kavonte Duckett on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

President – Mari Lee

Vice President – Tonya Amedon

Treasurer – Lisa Clark

Parliamentarian - David Kaye

Member at Large – Kavonte Duckett

Annette Breiling moved to accept and approve the slate with no changes; the motion was seconded by Marguerite Vacca-Kaye. The motion passed by a vote from the members.

Recommendation to the County Council to Amend the Frederick County Code to Prohibit Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination:

Gene Stanton moved and Marguerite seconded that the HRC adopt written resolution 2016A, which is a recommendation to the Frederick County Council to amend the County Code to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination and gender identity discrimination. Gene said that now is the right time to do this, because the recent shootings in Orlando have had a big impact. Jessica Fitzwater said that she believed the community is ready to discuss this, but is not sure when it will get on the County Council Agenda.

There was a majority vote with a motion from Gene Stanton and a second from Annette Breiling, to approve this resolution, with one abstention.

The HRC members expressed their thanks to Angela Spencer for her great leadership for the past 8 years. Angela reminded the members that in serving on the HRC they are seeds in our community, light in our community and water in our community.

Outgoing Frederick County Public School Liaison Kathleen Hartsock said that Jett Reid will become the new liaison to the HRC.

XII. The meeting was adjourned.